

**NAME**

**mcprint** - ship binary data to printer

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <curses.h>
```

```
int mcprint(char *data, int len);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

This function uses the **mc5p** or **mc4** and **mc5** capabilities, if they are present, to ship given data to a printer attached to the terminal.

Note that the **mcprint** code has no way to do flow control with the printer or to know how much buffering it has. Your application is responsible for keeping the rate of writes to the printer below its continuous throughput rate (typically about half of its nominal cps rating). Dot-matrix printers and 6-page-per-minute lasers can typically handle 80cps, so a good conservative rule of thumb is to sleep for a second after shipping each 80-character line.

**RETURN VALUE**

The **mcprint** function returns **ERR** if the write operation aborted for some reason. In this case, **errno** will contain either an error associated with **write(2)** or one of the following:

**ENODEV**

Capabilities for printer redirection do not exist.

**ENOMEM**

Couldn't allocate sufficient memory to buffer the printer write.

When **mcprint** succeeds, it returns the number of characters actually sent to the printer.

**PORTABILITY**

The **mcprint** call was designed for **ncurses(3X)**, and is not found in SVr4 curses, 4.4BSD curses, or any other previous version of curses.

**BUGS**

Padding in the **mc5p**, **mc4** and **mc5** capabilities will not be interpreted.

**SEE ALSO**

**curses(3X)**